APPENDIX D1.

(See General Subject No. 2.)

THE MADRAS PLANTERS' LABOUR ACT.

(Presented by Mr. Graham Anderson, C. I. E.)

I have the honour to reiterate the thanks of the South Mysore Planters' Association for the very kind and sympathetic promise accorded by the Durbar that the new Madras Planters' Labour Act will not be introduced until it is formally applied for and even then not until it has been suitably amended to suit the special requirements of the Planting Districts of Mysore.

I desire to avail myself of the present opportunity of inviting the consideration of Government to several facts, which I hope to be able to prove, place the community which I have the honour to represent in a position of greater difficulty and disadvantage than has previously been the case.

I venture to deem it essentially desirable to do everything in my power to prove that the Members of the South Mysore Planters' Association are neither inconsistent nor unreasonable, and that the reasons which preclude them from accepting the New Madras Planters' Labour Act without modification, are as cogent as they are unique. After all the trouble which has been taken in the framing of the new Act, at first sight it certainly might appear that its non-acceptance was reprehensible; but in the discharge of my unfortunate duty, I confidentially trust that I may be able to show that the fault does not rest with either the Mysore Government or the Mysore Planter.

The duty which I have to perform is a very difficult one, as there are so many delicate considerations inseparably associated with it, which if carelessly handled might either give offence to the Government of Madras or to my brother planters in that Presidency.

I have the honour, therefore, to preface my humble remarks by emphatically disclaiming any intention to do more than explain the origin and effects of the difficulties experienced, ever expressed with feelings of profound loyalty to the Government of Madras and the desire to prevent it being erroneously presumed that the friendly emulation, which happily has always existed between all Planters in Southern India is in any way in danger of degenerating into rivalry or selfishness. The unqualified thanks of the whole planting community of Southern India have already been expressed to the Hon. Messrs. Romilly, Hodgson, Acworth and Sir George Arbuthnot for their powerful advocacy and these expressions of gratitude are most cordially endorsed by South Mysore Planters.

For many months Hon. Mr. Acworth made persistent endeavours to have the new law framed, so as to suit the requirements of all planting districts and the Hon. Sir George Arbuthnot did his utmost to ensure the provisions of the Act being suitable for application to districts, like those in Mysore in which indigenous, local and imported labourers are employed.

The Hon. Mr. Acworth sums up this point as follows:—

> "Both Sir George Arbuthnot and I have done our best and if there are any points left unaltered which in the opinion of Planters in general should have been altered; it was either because such points were not brought to our notice, or that the amending of them was out of our power. I would ask Members to bear in mind that the labour conditions of the planting districts of Southern India are exceedingly varied and that to meet the requirements of all is most difficult. To please all is, of course, an impossibility."

The essential position of disadvantage under which the Mysore Planter has so long suffered is as follows:—

Although by a simple executive order arranged for by the Government of India in 1877, every possible assistance and facility for the execution of all processes and warrants issued by the Courts in British India have been accorded by Mysore, including those in connection with cases arising under Act XIII of 1859 which are not included in the schedule attached to the Extradition Act; warrants emanating from the Courts of Mysore in regard to cases of Breach of Contract have, however, continued to be entirely inoperative beyond the territorial limits of the Province. Owing to this absence of reciprocity, the anomaly has long existed that while the Planters in British territory have enjoyed the privilege of apprehending defaulting maistries and coolies in any part of Mysore, and demanding their surrender, although the offence was not one of those scheduled in the Extradition Act, the Mysore Planter has had absolutely no remedy against South Canara or other employes who have absconded after taking large advances.

The hardship involved is all the more self-evident when it is remembered that, at any rate in the past, enormous numbers of Mysore labourers were employed on Estates in British territory and that when the Mysore Planter employed British Indian maistries and coolies to compensate for the depletion in the labour supply he was absolutely denied any protection against the systematic fraud which was virtually encouraged by the faulty state of the law.

To surmount the difficulties involved the New Madras Planters' Labour Act has been framed and the Government of India has graciously arranged that when a similar Act is introduced into Mysore reciprocity will be conceded.

The Mysore Planter may be likened to a person suffering from two complaints, one an outward and the other an inward one.

When the final consultation took place, the authorities whose intimate knowledge of the case had been perfected by long study, recommended that remedies for both complaints should be simultaneously provided; but they were overruled and the internal trouble will in consequence assume new forms which will gradually give more trouble than ever.

Although all the members of the planting community have not yet had an opportunity of closely studying the revised draft of the new Act, still they know that extreme care has been bestowed on its preparation and that essential arrangements have been made in a spirit of great fairness, so as to prevent the continuance of those fraudulent practices which have caused the loss of many lakhs of rupees in the past in advances given to persons from British Territory and elsewhere, who have absconded and taken refuge beyond the limits of Mysore.

It is believed that with a few reasonable modifications rendered necessary by local circumstances and experience, the Act could be made suitable for use in the South Mysore Malnad in regard to all labourers, artisans and maistries from British Territory and distant parts of Mysore, but unless other amendments are arranged for, the Act could not possibly be used in regard to maistries, labourers and artisans residing in villages in the vicinity of the plantations, but outside of their boundaries and influence.

Knowing and experiencing all the difficulties and losses connected with the employment of British Indian Coolies, large sums of money have been advanced to local and indigenous artisans and labourers to encourage them to settle down within easy distance from the plantations.

The very essence of the Mysore Planters' original appeal was for the introduction of improvements which associated with the grant of reciprocity would, while affording adequate legal protection against the fraudulent practices of unscrupulous persons, in no way interfere with the continuance of leniency towards those who by giving a portion of their time to work at certain seasons of the year, are the means of greatly assisting in the maintenance of industrial enterprises which have congenial employment constantly available.

The labouring classes in Mysore are, as a rule, both honest and industrious, but as fraud and wilful annoyance have been permitted to go on unrestrained for so long

a period, owing entirely to the encouragement afforded by unsuitable legislation, the gradual power of example has naturally had a most pernicious effect.

It is therefore self-evident that both in the interests of the employer and employee alike, it is of vital and paramount importance that the laws should be so framed as to afford adequate protection to those who act fairly and honestly against those who act unfairly and dishonestly. The South Mysore Planters' Association has consistently abstained from suggesting the introduction of any complicated labour ordinance, being of opinion that all that was necessary was a simple and intelligible Contract Act, associated with reciprocal facilities for the execution of warrant so as to check fraudulent practices and discourage wilful annoyance.

After a most careful and elaborate investigation of all the circumstances and special requirements of the situation as existing in Southern India generally, the orders and intentions of the Government of India have been most clearly laid down. Extradition for breach of contract can only be arranged for by the planters agreeing to the supervision of their lines and by holding themselves liable to punishment if sanitary arrangements are not strictly attended too and when health and welfare of the laborers are not scrupulously safeguarded.

As the planting community has always readily recognised that the best interests of all employers were inseparably associated with the well-being and contentment of their employees the general spirit of the orders promulgated cannot possibly fail to be thoroughly appreciated.

But as frequently represented in the past, there are special conditions existing in the southern Mysore which cannot possibly be in any way ignored without a detrimental effect resulting to the employer and employee alike. In some extensive localities there are large bodies of local laborers who living in their own villages which are under the direct control and supervision of Government attend work on the estates occasionally or regularly but return to their homes daily.

Assuredly it would be obviously undesirable to insist on these people throwing up their homes and the lands which they cultivate and make them become resident in the lands on those coffee and other estates from which in the past they have solicited and received large advances to encourage them to settle down and to the proprietors of which they will naturally look in the future, not only for a continuance of employment but for advances in money to enable them to tide over their ever recurring difficulties.

As one of the peculiarities of Mysore is the immense number and variety of castes which are met with in such a comparatively small area, it will be readily understood that for their own private convenience the matter is not only of importance to the local laboring classes, but to many of those who come in from distant parts of the Province.

Some castes have deep rooted aversion to taking up their residence among a large mixed community and prefer to live, in one or other of the numerous villages in the neighbourhood of the estates, and it would be utterly impossible to keep a proper supervision over the sanitary condition, water-supply, etc., of a large number of villages which are not within the territorial limits of influence of the properties which provide employment to a proportion of their inhabitants.

Neither does there appear to be any reasonable necessity for attempting such an extended charge, as all the villages in the malnad are under the direct control of the Government. The other residents in such villages might, also, quite reasonably raise objections to the interference of the planters in their domestic arrangements.

During the prevalence of epidemics there are, also, many well-recognised benefits attending the judicious separation of the people in any given locality, and although those persons who prefer to be exclusive or seclusive in their habitations are unfortunately, not always consistent in their adoption of sanitary precautions, still the general principle that segregation is a powerful factor in the science of health preservation can never be ignored.

To those who do not understand legal technicalities, it certainly appears to be a matter which could be easily arranged to the complete satisfaction of all concerned, so that persons, who, having the option of residing on the estates, prefer to live in

the neighbouring villages which are under Government control and supervision, may be permitted to do so without invalidating the necessary protection afforded by the new Act to the proprietors of such estates as may be proclaimed as subject to its provisions and from whom they may solicit and receive advances for clearly defined purposes.

The matter being one of internal administration with which the State is competent to deal, it appears only reasonable that extradition should be granted in regard to remote possibilities quite as readily as will be the case with respect to persons from British territory who abscond to escape just punishment for the non-fulfilment of written contracts.

It may possibly be urged that if a local labourer or artisan declines to live on an estate that others can easily be employed.

It however being now a well recognised fact that advances are indispensably necessary for the collection of labourers and artisans, once vigorous competition is re-established all over Southern India by the equitable security against fraud which the new Act will provide there will be higher inducements offered to go to a distance and these may lead to gradual dispersion of local labourers or a diversion of would-be settlers coming in from distant parts of the Province.

I most sincerely trust that although I have only imperfectly explained the circumstances which at present prevent the acceptance of the new Act, I have said enough to dispel or prevent any ideas of selfishness or inconsistency on the part of my brother planters, some of whose properties, owing to the peculiarities of their possession and environment, are worked entirely with labourers imported from British territory; some with a mixture of coolies imported from Canara and distant parts of Mysore ; while others have some imported labourers, but are principally dependent on "locals" residing in the villages situated in the neighbourhood of their estates.

It is self-evident, therefore, that any arrangement devised solely to control one description of labour, could not possibly be made applicable to such a diversity of requirements and the general agreement in this conviction, is in my humble opinion, eloquent testimony of the reasons why the Mysore planters have refrained from pressing for the introduction of the new Act, which, although calculated to benefit all who use imported labour, would be detrimental to the interests of those who are dependent on a mixed supply or principally on "locals" as well as of the labourers themselves.

In conclusion I have the honor to commend the subject for the sympathetic consideration of the Government of Mysore, in the fullest confidence that any advice which it may see fit to vouchsafe will be prompted by a sincere regard for the welfare of the coffee industry and all classes of the labourers upon whom its prosperity depends.

APPENDIX D 2.

(See General Subject No. 27.)

MODEL HOLDINGS.

(Presented by Mr. Graham Anderson, C. I. E.

I have the honor to express the humble opinion that the recent order of the Government relative to the institution of Model or Example Holdings for the improvement of agriculture in the Province, is one of the most gratifying and acceptable notifications that have been promulgated in Mysore.

However necessary or desirable incentives to other forms of industrial development may be, the fact must ever remain that agriculture is the mainstay of the country, the most important source of revenue being derived from the demand for land.

One of the peculiarities of Mysore is the number and variety of climates which exist in such a relatively small area while others are the long-continued droughts which occasionally occur and the uncertain distribution of rainfall.

There is not a shadow of doubt that the indigenous agriculturist is worthy of every possible solicitude and assistance. This practice is founded on local experience and homely tradition and taking all things into consideration he is undoubtedly a model of patience, industry and self-reliance.

Although he may be averse to receive instruction, he is ever ready to adopt improvements when they have been proved by his neighbours to be remunerative and practicable.

He knows his land and the climate of his locality and is a shrewd observer of all improvements which are attempted in his neighbourhood.

For these and many other reasons, practical demonstration may be regarded as, not only the most feasible, but certainly the most acceptable method for the encouragement of agricultural development. There are vast possibilities for improvement many elementary principles relative to the working of the soil in suitable weather and the amount of seed to be used for different soils and the use and abuse of water, being almost entirely disregarded in the Malnad.

In order to overcome some of the conservative ideas which are prevalent, tactful arrangements relative to supervision will be essentially desirable.

I only wish that as many easily arranged improvements were possible in connection with the industry which I have the honour to represent.

And the problems which the Mysore Coffee Planter has already solved have taken many years of toil and investigation and those which still remain, undoubtedly call for scientific advice and assistance.

Among the latter, the campaign which has unceasingly to be carried on against fungoid and insect pests, is unfortunately the best example, and acting under the advice of Dr. Butler, Dr. Lehmann, Mr. Barber and Mr. Cameron, Planters will in the future have principally to rely on measures calculated to increase the vigour of the constitution of the plants which they use for supplying vacancies and for reclaiming those portions of their plantations which have become deteriorated or unremunerative.

A great deal can of course be done in the future, as has been done in the past, by bestowing scrupulous care on the selection of seed, and also by change of variety; but as at present advised there are other horticultural means which hold out an even better prospect of success, but which require high scientific assistance and supervision.

This interesting subject has engaged the attention of planters in various Districts for many years and was finally discussed at the last Annual Meeting of the United Planters' Association of Southern India when the following resolution was unanimously carried :—

"That the Governments of Madras and Mysore be asked to start small experimental gardens for the hybridisation and selection of coffee, rubber and other products as suggested by Dr. Lehmann, Mr. Barber and Dr. Butler."

As this subject is in consonance with the benevolent views expressed by the Government of Mysore in the Order under notice, I have the honor to express the confident hope that favorable consideration may be bestowed on it, seeing that this Province produces more than a half of the entire exports of coffee from all the planting districts of India.

In concluding these humble remarks, I cannot refrain from venturing on the opinion that taking into consideration the vast interests of Agriculture in Mysore the addition of a skilled Entomologist to the Government staff is a matter of vital importance, and an absolutely indispensable factor in any comprehensive scheme of agricultural improvement.

APPENDIX D 3.

(See General Subject No. 391.)

GAME PRESERVATION.

(Presented by Mr. Graham Anderson, C. I. E.)

All lovers of sport and fair play, all who take an interest in living nature and all sensible people who appreciate the enjoyments of rural life, will most assuredly endorse the desire recently expressed by His Excellency the Viceroy for the introduction of Game Laws with operative effect throughout all India.

Nothing could be more desirable or opportune than the extension of reasonable protection to Game, Fish and Birds which, it is lamentable to think, have in some localities, been virtually exterminated owing to the absence of any close-time restrictions; to the immense number of guns in the country and to indiscriminate slaughter by nets, snares and other unsportsmanlike contrivances.

Once the general principle of game preservation is recognized as a national requirement, many of the obstacles which stand in the way of improvement will gradually disappear, as they are principally supported by ancient customs or imaginary rights.

Objections naturally arise when such fanciful privileges are suddenly withdrawn or restricted and the Government of Mysore by anticipating the legislation contemplated by the Government of India and by administering the local Act with the utmost leniency, is in a far better position to judge as to what is necessary to give the fullest effect to its original excellent intentions, than it was when the Act was provisionally introduced three years ago.

It is quite certain that when a comprehensive measure is made applicable to the whole of British India, the hands of the Durbar will be greatly strengthened, and many much desired improvements will be more easily arranged for.

As it is a well-known judicial fact that inveterate poachers who slaughter game, fish and birds without any consideration for season, age or sex, are the only class of offenders against the laws of a country who never evince any signs of repentance; it is only natural that the systematic enforcement of any regulations which are intended to have a beneficial effect is gradually recognized to be essentially desirable and this can only be effected by the direct agency of Government officials and the cordial co-operation of local organisations.

APPENDIX D 4.

(See General Subject No. 382.)

SANDAL.

(Presented by Mr. Graham Anderson, C. I. E.)

On the occasion of the recent conference which was so courteously arranged for by the Durbar, I had the honour to make the following representation relative to this most interesting subject.

There is a well matured conviction that sandalwood growing and conservation should become an industry in Mysore.

Hitherto the loss of seedlings has been immense, and knowing well the pains and penalties and dangers connected with the existence of trees on or near the property of private individuals, everybody's hand has been against the young seedlings and plants which are of a size that may be removed.

If arrangements were made which by suitable concessions and a promise of a prospective share in the price realized when maturity is arrived at, they would tend to encourage everybody to regard sandal as something to be guarded and attended

to so as to form a means of prospective profit and remuneration. And I am quite sure a most beneficial result would be obtained.

It is absolutely impossible for any Government or Forest establishment to carry out the work of conservation on private lands as effectually as could easily be arranged for by suitable encouraging concessions to the holders of those lands.

There are millions of seedlings and plants which could be searched for and suitably treated and conserved if this suggestion was acted upon, and I feel sure that the European Planting Community with its special knowledge, experience and local facilities, would energetically assist to make the experiment a success which would hereafter greatly increase the revenue from this valuable tree.

An immense number of trees would be sought for on private holdings and placed at the disposal of Government, as under the present arrangements the bare existence of these trees is not known, as they are covered with thorns and jungle growth in out-of-the-wayplaces.

It is almost impossible for Government to guard or conserve a few trees here and there without the willing co-operation of private individuals.

The system in vogue is far better calculated to bringing about the destruction of sandal plants and seedlings than their conservation.

Once numerous land-holders were interested in conservation, growth and cultivation of sandal for and on behalf of Government, jungle fires, which are at present so destructive and of such frequent occurrence, would be more effectually prevented.

The energies of the Forest Department could be diverted to other works if sandal conservation was assisted by the willing co-operation of private individuals.

When land was granted for sandal cultivation, opportunities would be afforded for experimenting with many other useful products.

It is reasonable to believe that by generous consideration of these proposals, Government would at once enlist the cordial assistance of both the European and Native land-holders in Mysore and taking the immense prospective gain to Government into consideration coupled with the fact that in British territory all Sandal is the property of the land-holders, the proposals herein made cannot be considered in any way unreasonable, but may be deemed highly desirable, more especially as sandal is being attacked by an insidious disease which self-evidently calls for an increase of intelligent supervision.

APPENDIX D 5.

Mr. Grahman Anderson's Note on Subject No. 479.

Railway Extension.

The latest telegrams from Simla relative to the prospects of the various projects are as follows:—

SIMLA, 22nd Oct.—The principal paragraphs in connection with South Indian lines in this year's Histories of Railway Projects are as follows:—

1. The construction of the proposed Arsikere-Mangalore Railway, which would connect the coffee estates on and near the top of the Mysore plateau with Mangalore Port has been deferred for the present, as the Southern Mahratta and Madras Railways and Planters' Association and local opinion in Coorg prefer the Mysore-Tellichery Railway, while the Mysore Durbar declines to offer a guarantee.
2. The construction of the Mysore-Tellicherry Railway is deferred for the present owing to lack of practical support.
3. The construction of the British section of the Nanjangud-Erode line has been deferred on account of greater claims of other lines elsewhere.

Although the general position of affairs is self-evident, still I have the honour to clearly point out that the Planters' Association mentioned is the Coorg Planters' Association and not either of the Mysore Planters' Associations.

The arguments in favour of the Arsikere-Mangalore project advanced by the Planters' Associations of Mysore have as yet been in no way modified. Mangalore has always been considered and is still known to be the natural outlet for Mysore produce, and as long as the immense carrying power of the Mysore cartmen exists, Mangalore will continue to receive the benefits which it has so long enjoyed, and goods will be drawn away from the existing line of Railway.

It is only natural that the Mysore Government should decline to offer a guarantee after its experience of the Southern Mahratta Railway, but it cannot be too clearly stated that this line does not tap the most productive portion of the Province ; neither can it ever expect to attract the bulk of the produce of those portions, over the immense length of its line to Marmgao which is a port in foreign territory, with which traders in Mysore have hitherto had little or no connection.

Taking the contents of the second and other telegrams into consideration, it is most earnestly to be hoped that the interests of Mysore may soon cease to be injuriously affected by the delay arising from the claims of the rival or alternative projects.

In conclusion I have the honor to express the fullest confidence that whatever decision may be arrived at, the wants of the planting districts of Mysore will be in no way neglected.